THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : With the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism effective from 1st April 2002, the prices of all petroleum products, except for PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG, have become market-determined. Thus, variations in the international oil prices are likely to be reflected in the domestic prices of petroleum products.

However, with a view to contain the impact of the increase in the international oil prices on the consumer prices of petrol and diesel, the Government reduced the excise duty rates on petrol and diesel by 2% with effect from the midnight of 3rd/4th June 2002.

Setting up of auto LPG dispensing stations

93. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Petroleum Corporation has decided to set up 42 auto LPG dispensing stations in the country during 2002-2003;

(b) if so, whether out of this 16 would be set up in Delhi;

(c) the States where these auto LPG dispensing stations will be set up;

(d) whether any concrete programme of action is being proposed in setting up of these stations throughout the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) have the plan to set up 40 Auto LPG Dispensing Stations (ALDS) in the country including 15 in Delhi by the end of March, 2003.

(c) to (e) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have planned to set up 228 ALDS in the major cities across the country by the end of March, 2004. However, the commissioning of these ALDS also depends upon the market demand. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) would be setting up these ALDS in the State of Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.